

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/084 W

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R 181459Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1572
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2310

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PBOR, IS, JO, XF
SUBJECT: WEST BANK VIEWS OF HALHUL'S MAYOR

1. HALHUL'S MAYOR MOHAMMAD MULHIM TOLD CONGEN AND
POLOFF HULL AUGUST 18 THAT A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN
HOS TOWN WERE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. HE
HIMSELF HAD SUPPORTED THE MEETING, HE SAID, BUT HAD MISGIVINGS
ABOUT THE "MISSING LINK" IN THE PEACE PROCESS, I.E. LACK
OF REPRESENTATION OF THE PALESTINIANS.

2. MULHIM SAID SOME MAYORS HAD BEEN CONSULTING INFORMALLY,
(THE MAYOR MENTIONED A MEETING IN BETHLEHEM AUGUST 17) AND
HE FELT, UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS, AS FEW AS THREE MAYORS
MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PALESTINIANS'
PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT
REJECTIONISTS ARE EMBARRASSED BY IRAQU-PLO BLOOD - LETTING.
HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION BE
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COMPOSED OF SEVERAL MAYORS FROM THE WEST BANK, PALESTINIANS
FROM JORDAN AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PLO EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE. THE CONGEN POINTED OUT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF
242 WAS A PRECONDITION, BUT NO GUARANTEE, FOR PLO
PARTICIPATION. IN ANY CASE, MULHIM SAID HE HAD BEEN
TOLD FLATLY THAT THE GOI
CONSIDERED ELECTED MAYORS AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTA-

TIVES OF THE PALESTINIANS AT A MEETING WITHIN THE WEEK
WITH YIGAL CARMON, ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISOR OF THE WEST
BANK MILGIV.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION WITH JORDAN, JULHIM
VOLUNTEERED THAT THE COMMON MAN REALIZED HOW DEPENDENT THE
WEST BANK WAS ON THE GOJ. THIS WAS BROUGHT HOME RECENTLY
BY SHARP COMPLAINTS TO MAYORS ABOUT A JORDANIAN BAN ON
EXPORTS OF WEST BANK GRAPES BEYOND JORDAN.
CITIZENS WITH ECONOMIC INTERESTS WOULD NOT SUPPORT MAYORS
WHO WOULD NOT FIND A MODUS VIVENDI WITH JORDAN, MULHIM
SAID.

4. COMMENT: MULHIM SOUNDED AS IF HE WERE REPEATING FOR
OUR BENEFIT ARGUMENTS HE HAD BEEN USING RECENTLY WITH HIS
COLLEAGUES FOR A FLEXIBLE, OPEN AND REALISTIC WEST BANK
POLITICAL POSITION. HIS REMARKS CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION
THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN WEST BANK MAYORS AND THE GOJ HAVE
BEEN IMPROVING AND THAT THE MILGOV HAS BEEN CONSULTING
WEST BANK POLITICIANS SYSTEMATICALLY IN ANTICIPATION OF
THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT.

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